

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Management

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is a non-native insect pest of eastern and Carolina hemlocks. HWA now occurs from New Hampshire to Georgia and as far west as Tennessee. This area represents about one-half of the native range of hemlock in the eastern U.S. The entire range of eastern hemlock may become infested within the next few decades. In Virginia, New Jersey, Connecticut, and portions of Pennsylvania extensive tree mortality and decline are common. This insect will have adverse impacts on an important habitat for many wildlife species.

Key Issues:

- HWA impacts are expected to intensify and spread throughout the range of eastern and Carolina hemlocks.
- Hemlock is an ecologically important species in many habitats and irreplaceable for its biodiversity value and as an old growth species in the east.
- HWA threatens hemlock health and establishing future hemlock stands in infested areas.
- There are no practical means available to manage HWA in forest situations.
- A long-range management strategy in both urban and rural forests is needed, including developing management tools to reduce the impact and slow HWA spread.
- State Foresters, State Plant Regulatory Officials, and the USDA Forest Service consider HWA a high priority forest health issue.

Status of Project:

- The FS is supporting biological control efforts in 15 states (CT, GA, MA, ME, NH, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, TN, WV, & VA).
- Suppression and eradication assistance is being provided on state and federal lands in 5 states (ME, NH, PA, TN & VA).
- Work to assess impacts and develop silvicultural guidelines is underway in 5 states (CT, MA, PA, NY & NJ).
- The FS and cooperators have completed a comprehensive strategic plan for managing HWA and have formed a multi-agency steering committee to monitor its implementation.

Budget History:

HWA Activities (<i>\$ Thousands</i>)		
FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
\$680	\$1,100	\$1,600

Future Direction:

- Implement the HWA strategic plan as funding becomes available.
- Seek full funding for implementing the HWA plan in out-year budgets.

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